

**IN THE SECOND SESSION OF THE
SEVENTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE FOURTH REPUBLIC OF
GHANA**

**REPORT OF THE SELECT
COMMITTEE ON YOUTH, SPORTS
AND CULTURE ON THE 2019
ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES OF
THE MINISTRY OF CHIEFTAINCY
AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS**

ACC No 906 C2
Class No BE/MCRA/119
DECEMBER 2018

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THE REPORT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY SELECT COMMITTEE ON YOUTH, SPORTS AND CULTURE ON THE 2019 ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE MINISTRY OF CHIEFTAINCY AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs for 2019 were referred to the Select Committee on Youth, Sports and Culture for consideration and report pursuant to Order 140 (4) of the Standing Orders of the House. This followed the presentation to Parliament of the 2019 Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government by the Minister of Finance (MoF), Hon. Ken Ofori-Atta in accordance with Article 179 of the 1992 Constitution and Order 140 (2) of the Standing Orders of the House.

The Committee met with the Deputy Minister for Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs, Hon. and the Heads of Departments and Agencies, as well as officers from the Ministry of Finance to consider the estimates, and reports as follows:

2.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

- i. The 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana;
- ii. The Standing Orders of the House;
- iii. The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2019 Financial Year;
- iv. The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2018 Financial Year;
- v. Report of the Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs' on the actual releases and expenditure of the Ministry for the 2018 financial year

3.0 VISION AND MISSION OF THE MINISTRY

The Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs exists to operate as the primary and apex body in policy formulation, implementation and co-ordination in the Chieftaincy and Religious Sectors. The goal of the Ministry is to harness, develop and maximize the utilization of Chieftaincy and Traditional assets and values to serve as the basis for wealth creation and socio-cultural empowerment. The Vision of the Ministry is to preserve, sustain and integrate the regal and traditional values and religious practices to accelerate wealth creation and harmony for total national development.

4.0 CORE FUNCTIONS OF THE MINISTRY

The Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs exist to undertake the following functions:

- I. Initiate, formulate and ensure the efficient and effective implementation of policies, plans, programmes and projects for the Sector;
- II. Preserve, conserve, develop, promote and present Ghanaian regal, traditional institutions, and values to project the unique Ghanaian Identity and National pride;
- III. Collaborate with the National House of Chiefs to progressively study, interpret and codify customary law as well as to undertake programmes and activities for religious tolerance, peaceful co-existence and deepening of faith for national development;
- IV. Coordinate, monitor and evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of the sector.
- V. Collaborate with the National House of Chiefs to undertake an evaluation of traditional customs and usages with a view to eliminating those customs and usages that are outmoded and socially harmful;
- VI. Undertake activities and support government policies in consultation with the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC); and
- VII. Organize periodic Sectorial Review Conferences for all stakeholders in the Ministry to re-examine direction and focus in line with prevailing Government policies.

To carry out its mandate and ensure that the Chieftaincy and Religious bodies promote and enhance a peaceful, congenial environment that creates the opportunity for government institutions to pursue the prime object of bringing development for all, the Ministry is pursuing two main programs – the Chieftaincy Management program and the Religion for Development Program.

I. CHIEFTAINCY MANAGEMENT

Under the Chieftaincy Management programme the objectives include positioning the Chieftaincy institution to be an active participant in the creation of a peaceful society for the overall development of the state. To achieve this objective, the following activities are being pursued:

- studying and codifying customary law that are applicable to specific jurisdictions.
- promoting the Chieftaincy institution for tolerance and good governance;
- intensifying the speedy resolution of chieftaincy matters;
- producing a comprehensive document of the various paramountcies and traditional areas; and
- publication of materials for the understanding and appreciation of the role of chieftaincy in national life.

II. RELIGION FOR DEVELOPMENT

Under the religion for development programme, the objective is to employ religion to be a partner in the development process, by ensuring tolerance, peaceful co-existence and the inculcation of values, as well as enhancing and enabling contribution and sustenance to the objectives of national development. This would be pursued through the:

- Developing and implementing a national policy on religion;
- Holding dialogues on religion and development;
- Encouraging systematic pilgrimage for development; and
- Environmental awareness and protection.

4.0 IMPLEMENTING DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

The Ministry has a Headquarters with six (6) Directorates. These are:

- I.** Finance and Administration
- II.** Policy Planning Monitoring and Evaluation
- III.** Human Resources Management
- IV.** Research

- V. Internal Audit
- VI. Chieftaincy & Religious Affairs

In addition to the above, the Ministry oversees the operations of

- I. The National House of Chiefs
- II. Ten (10) Regional Houses of Chiefs
- III. Two hundred and eight (208) Traditional Councils
- IV. Four Divisional Councils
- V. Oversees the management of Christian, Islamic and other Religious bodies.

5.0 THE YEAR 2018 IN RETROSPECT

The Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs requested a budgetary amount of eighty-eight million Cedis (GH¢88,000,000.00) but was allocated a total budget of Thirty-nine Million, eight hundred and seven thousand, six hundred and thirty-two Cedis (GH¢ 39,807,632.00) for its activities for 2018.

TABLE 1: ALLOCATIONS FOR 2018

ECONOMIC CLASSIFICATION	(A) PROPOSED BUDGET (2018)	(B) BUDGET ALLOCATION (2018)	(A-B) VARIANCE
COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES	GH¢42,000,000 .00	GH¢ 34,858,622.00	GH¢7,141,378.00
GOODS AND SERVICES	GH¢ 16,000,000.00	GH¢ 2,949,010.00	GH¢13,050,990.00
CAPEX	GH¢ 30,000,000.00	GH¢ 2,000,000.00	GH¢28,000,000.00
Total	GH¢ 88,000,000.00	GH¢ 39,807,632.00	GH¢ 48,192,368.00

TABLE 2: ALLOCATIONS AND EXPENDITURE FOR JANUARY - SEPTEMBER 2018

	Approved Budget GHC	Amount Released GHC	Warrant Received GHC	Actual Expenditure GHC
Compensation of Employees	34,858,622.00	23,051,234.95	23,051,234.95	23,051,234.95
Goods and Services	2,949,010.00	1,572,705.34	1,572,705.34	1,315,374.35
Capex	2,000,000.00	392,596.61	392,596.61	392,596.61
Total	39,807,632.00	25,016,536.90	25,016,536.90	24,759,205.91

In respect of Goods and Services, there is a variance between the amount received and the actual expenditure because even though the Ministry of Finance has issued a warrant for the release, not all of the funds have been credited to the Ministry's account.

TABLE 3: BREAKDOWN OF EXPENDITURE WITH VARIANCE

Economic classification Item	Budget GhC	Release GhC	Variance GhC	% Variance
Compensation of Employees	34,858,622.00	23,051,234.95	11,807,387.05	33.87
Goods and Services	2,949,010.00	1,572,705.34	1,376,304.66	46.67
Capital Expenditure (Capex)	2,000,000.00	392,596.61	1,607,403.39	80.37
TOTAL	39,807,632.00	25,016,536.90	14,791,095.10	37.16

6.0 ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2018

I. Management and Administration

A. Workshop on illegal mining (Galamsey)

On the 18th and 19th June 2018 the Ministry, in collaboration with the Inter-Ministerial Committee on illegal mining, organized a two-day sensitization workshop on illegal mining “galamsey” at the International Conference Center for Chiefs and Queemothers drawn from communities affected by “galamsey” activities. The workshop took stock of the Committee’s achievement since the exercise started a year ago. Stakeholders explained strategies they adopted in addressing the menace in their communities and the challenges they face.

B. Monitoring of illegal mining activities

As part of the overall programme of curbing illegal mining, the Ministry undertook a monitoring exercise in Ashanti, Brong-Ahafo, Eastern, Central and Western Regions too see progress made since the stakeholders meeting in the communities affected by illegal mining.

C. Job Evaluation undertaken by MSD

The Ministry in April and May commissioned the Management Services Division (MSD) to undertake a job evaluation and draw up scheme of service for the class and grades of the various grades for Registrars, Secretaries, Bailiffs and Clerks. In addition, to facilitate the recruitment of lawyers for the Houses of Chiefs, the Management Services Division (MSD) was also tasked to create a legal class and its scheme of service.

D. Training workshops organized for Paramount Queen Mothers

The Research Unit organized workshops for Paramount Queen Mothers in the Ashanti, Brong-Ahafo, Northern, Upper East, Upper West Regions to sensitize them on child labour, the Chieftaincy Act, Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) and the roles that they can play to strengthen the Chieftaincy Institution particular emphasis was placed on the role that the Chieftaincy can play in enhancing community participation in programmes and the enhancement and promotion of peaceful co-existence and the use of culture for development.

E. Handbook on Chieftaincy

As part of the process creating awareness and the understanding of the Chieftaincy institution and also facilitate dispute resolution, the handbook on chieftaincy is being revised and updated.

F. Documentation of Paramountcies and Traditional Areas

As part of the overall effort of managing the Chieftaincy institution for national development and create the environment that enhance and promote peaceful co-existence and elimination of issues likely to exacerbate conflict, the Ministry is undertaking the exercise of documenting Paramountcies and Traditional areas of paramountcies

II. HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

A. Performance Assessment Workshops for Registrars

The Ministry organized a workshop for Senior Officers of the Ministry and Regional Registrars at Ada from 7th to 10th March 2018 to take stock of activities, achievements and challenges of the Ministry and the Houses of Chiefs for 2017 as well as to plan programmes for 2018. From 22nd to 26th August 2018, the Ministry further organized a programme at Ada to assess the implementation of its work plan for 2018 mid-year for the ten (10) Regional Houses of Chiefs.

B. Management Training and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) workshops for Assistant Regional and Traditional Council Registrars

The Ministry organised two (2) training workshops on management and Alternative Dispute Resolution for Assistant Regional Registrars and Assistant Traditional Council Registrars respectively at the University of Ghana, Legon. The Workshops focused on building the capacity of participants in Management and Alternative Dispute Resolution.

C. Inauguration of Traditional Councils

The Ministry inaugurated seven (7) traditional councils – Battor, Nyagbo, Afife, Adaklu, Ziavi, Logba, Wusuta Traditional Councils in the Volta Region and Maabang Traditional Council in the Ashanti Region. The objective of this exercise is to enhance Chieftaincy administration and adjudication of Chieftaincy disputes.

D. Legislative Instruments (L.Is) on Codification of Lines of Succession to Stools/Skins

The Ministry followed up on eleven (11) draft Legislative Instruments on Codification of Lines of Succession to Stools and Skins at the Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Justice and has received response. These were forwarded to the National House of Chiefs for their comments. The House verified the accuracy of the information contained in the draft and had re-submitted to Cabinet for approval and further action.

E. Data on Chieftaincy Declaration (C.D) Forms Recommended and Approved by the National House of Chiefs

The National House of Chiefs had approved Nine Hundred and Fifty Nine (959) CD Forms for entry into the National Register of Chiefs as at September 2018. The objective of the exercise is to report the current status of persons as chiefs in Ghana. The National House of Chiefs is in the process of digitizing the records in the Register.

F. Pilgrimage programme

As part of the Ministry's programme to facilitate pilgrimage to strengthen faith and values to improve national development 200 persons were facilitated to undertake pilgrimage to the State of Israel in September, 2018.

G. Bill on Religious Pilgrimage

The Ministry drafted a bill on pilgrimage and has subsequently submitted cabinet memorandum seeking approval to finalize the bill and for other processes to be fulfilled before eventual passage. Cabinet considered the draft bill on Christian pilgrimage and requested that a policy on pilgrimage be submitted for consideration and approval.

H. National Policy on Religion

The Ministry is in the process of drafting and finalizing a National Policy on Religion in collaboration with the National Developing Planning Commission.

7.0 BUDGETARY ALLOCATION FOR 2019

The Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs has been allocated a ceiling of Forty-two Million, Five Hundred and Two Thousand and Sixty-Six Cedis (**GHC 42,502,066.00**) to be expended as follows:

Compensation	-	GhC 38,921,130.00
Goods and Services	-	GhC 2,630,936.00
CapEx	-	GhC 950,000.00

A. THE MINISTRY'S PRIORITY PROGRAMMES FOR 2019

- I. Draft and finalize the National Policy on Religion;
- II. Finalize and publish the Handbook on Chieftaincy;
- III. Complete scheme of service and the creation of legal class for National and Regional Houses of Chiefs;
- IV. Demarcation of Paramountcies and traditional areas;
- V. Ensure the passage of the Legislative Instrument on the Membership of Regional Houses of Chiefs;
- VI. Renovate Offices and Conference rooms of the Upper East Regional Houses of Chiefs;
- VII. Digitize the national register of Chiefs;

- VIII. Organize (2) inter-faith dialogues and hold a seminars and workshops on religion for national cohesion and development;
- IX. Facilitate pilgrimage to religious sites;
- X. Engage religious bodies on activities that infringe on the rights of believers or adherents and on acts that are contrary to the laws of the republic of Ghana;
- XI. Intensify and enhance chieftaincy management or engagements with the houses of chiefs and emphasize the role chieftaincy can play in the development process.

8.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

I. Fight against Galamsey

Although the ban on Galamsey has been lifted, the Committee urge the Ministry to continue collaborating with all other stakeholders to ensure that the guidelines put in place by government, is closely adhered to.

II. Inadequate funds for Judicial Committees

The Committee was informed that due to the lack of adequate funds, the Judicial Committees of the various Houses of Chiefs were unable to meet as often as necessary. This has left many chieftaincy issues/problems still unsolved.

III. Outmoded L.I 798 and C.I 27 which specify the procedures for adjudication of disputes by Judicial Committees of Traditional Councils and various Houses of Chiefs

The Committee observed that for our laws to be in tandem with current nature and spate of chieftaincy disputes erupting all over the country, the above-mentioned laws, which spell out the processes to resolve disputes must be reviewed. The Committee therefore advised the Ministry to collaborate with the Attorney-General's Office to expedite work on the drafts aimed at amending these laws to address current challenges.

IV. Process in recruiting Counsel for the Houses of Chiefs

The Committee further observed that even though the Ministry needs to engage about eleven Principal State Attorneys to assist various Houses of Chiefs, the process for procuring counsel for the Houses of Chiefs is enshrined in Articles 273 (3) and 274 (5) of the 1992 Constitution, whereby counsel is appointed by the House of Chiefs on the recommendation of the Attorney-General. Thus, any proposal regarding the engagement of counsel for any House of Chiefs must first be sent to the Attorney-General/Legal Service Board for scrutiny and recommendations. Until such recommendations are made therefore, the work of the various Judicial Councils tend to stagnate. The Committee, while acknowledging how busy the Attorney-General's department is, pleads

that all applications for counsel sent from the Ministry and the various Houses of Chiefs to the Legal Service Board, should be deemed urgent and must be dealt with in a timeous manner.

V. Composition of Members of Judicial Committees

The Committee also noted that the Judicial Councils of the Houses of Chiefs are made up of three people at the Regional Level and five people at the National level. Therefore, when one person is absent at a Regional Council meeting, work cannot proceed. This has been the bane of the life of Regional Houses of Chiefs, leading to some cases being on the shelf for years on end. The composition of these Judicial Committees is dictated by the 1992 Constitution and cannot be changed until there is a review of the Constitution itself. The Committee therefore pleads with members of the Judicial Councils of all the Regional Houses of Chiefs to carry out their mandate expeditiously and clear the glut of chieftaincy disputes on their shelves, while efforts are made to address the aforementioned challenges;

VI. No Internally Generated Funds

The Committee observed that the Ministry has no line for Internally Generated Funds despite its numerous activities. The Committee therefore advised the Ministry to explore permissible initiatives that would generate funds for them.

VII. Inadequate Staff Strength

The Committee noted that, year after year, the Ministry cites inadequate staff, especially legal officers who are needed to support the Regional House of Chiefs. This, according to the Ministry is having a negative impact on its operations across the country. The Committee acknowledges the important role of the Ministry of Chieftaincy and Traditional Affairs in promoting peace, particularly through its conflict resolution functions and data management and is therefore suggesting the engagement of National Building Corps (NABCO) employees and National Service Personnel who are already on the state's payroll to be posted to various areas of the Ministry to help in areas where their expertise is needed.

The Committee also urges the Ministry of Finance to give finance clearance to enable the Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs recruit a legal team to help fast track its objective of settling more Chieftaincy disputes.

These recommendations, with respect to the afore-mentioned challenges, are the same challenges that the Ministry stated last year. The Committee therefore urges the Ministry to take concrete steps in addressing these issues in an innovative manner so as to surmount them during the 2019 financial year and report same to the Committee.

8.0 CONCLUSION

The Committee acknowledges that the Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs has a vital role to play in engendering cohesion and maintaining peace in the country, which are prerequisites for national growth and development.

In conclusion therefore, the Committee urges the House to adopt its Report and approve the total sum of **Forty-two Million, Five Hundred and Two Thousand and Sixty-Six Cedis (GHC 42,502,066.00)** for the operations of the Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs for the 2019 Financial Year.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED



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HON. ALEX KOFI AGYEKUM
CHAIRMAN



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SHEBA NANA AFIYIE OSEI
CLERK